



**National Park Service**  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
Sequoia & Kings Canyon National Parks

**U.S. Forest Service**  
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
Sequoia National Forest  
Inyo National Forest



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## Interagency News Release / Fire Update

### For Immediate Release – October 6, 2003

Contacts: **Marty O'Toole**, Fire Information Officer for Kaweah-Kern Complex (559) 565-3117. **Jody Lyle**, Sequoia & Kings Canyon National Parks, Fire Information and Education Specialist (559) 565-3703 and **Denise Alonzo**, Sequoia National Forest, District Public Affairs Specialist for Tule River, Hot Springs, Hume Lake Districts (559) 539-2607 ext. 212.

### Interagency Release - Kaweah-Kern Complex Update

Cool temperatures, higher relative humidity levels and shorter days have caused most of the fires in the Kaweah-Kern Complex to show little activity over the weekend. "We're taking the opportunity to review and improve our long-range plans," said Wayne Cook, incident commander for the Northern Rockies 2 Fire Use Management Team, which is assigned to manage these fires. Two fires, Paradise 2 and West Kern, continue to slowly increase in size as the relative humidity levels in those areas remain slightly lower. "Since weather patterns are not expected to change for the next several days, crews continue to take suppression actions on some of the fires, and monitors are keeping a watchful eye on the rest."

New trail closures have been announced due to fire activity. The Lower Kern Trail will be closed south of mile marker 139 to the southern boundary of the park; the 33Eor trail in Sequoia National Forest, which connects to the Lower Kern Trail, is also closed.

The following is a summary of the wildland fires in the Kaweah-Kern Complex:

**Homer's Nose 2** – This fire is now in monitor status. Little to no smoke has been sighted in the last several days. The fire has affected 205 acres.

**Paradise 2** - Fire line has been completed along the western flank of this fire. The Arrowhead Hotshots will work in the area again today where they can safely build line on the southern and western sides. The fire continues to burn actively at night and produce noticeable smoke. The fire has affected 210 acres.

The following is an update for current wildland fire use projects in the Kaweah-Kern Complex. These are lightning-caused fires allowed to spread naturally to improve forest health by reducing ground fuels and maintaining a natural fire cycle. Trails remain closed in the areas of these fires to provide for public safety.

**Williams Fire (Kings Canyon National Park)** – This fire was very quiet over the weekend; very little activity is anticipated. Estimated acreage is 2455.

**West Kern Fire (Sequoia National Park, Sequoia and Inyo National Forests)** The main activity of this fire has been seen in the Inyo National Forest portion of the fire. It may continue to move south into the Chinquapin Basin. A Fire Use Module of eight people is assigned to monitor fire weather and behavior in this area. Total estimated size is 6730 acres of which 3408 acres are on the Sequoia National Forest and 868 on the Inyo

National Forest. Fire personnel will continue to monitor this fire. The Lower Kern Trail is now closed south of mile marker 139 to the park's southern boundary.

**Giant Fire (Sequoia National Park)** – This fire continues smoldering and creeping in surface vegetation near Crescent Meadow. Smoke impacts from this fire are minimal. Several fire use monitors continue to watch over this fire. The estimated size of the Giant fire is 275 acres. Several popular trails remain closed for the safety of the public. Hazard trees continue to fall in the fire perimeter, and there are numerous hot spots. The five remaining wildland fire use projects showed little activity.

In addition, **Sequoia National Forest** is managing two wildland fire use projects in the Cannell Meadow Ranger District. Forest staff will continue to monitor these lightning-caused fires that started on September 3.

- **Hooker Fire** – Located southeast of Hooker Meadow, it continued to gently grow over the weekend. This fire has grown to approximately 531 acres.
- **Albanita Fire** – This fire, located about two miles north of the Hooker Fire, also has added a few more acres each day. It's approximately 423 acres in size.

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